SHADOW FALL
PART 1 OF 4
ISSUE 59
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Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where Shadow and Team Dark set out to save the world from a threat that shouldn't even exist!

SONIC UNIVERSE™

PREVIOUSLY...

THE ULTIMATE INVASION!

The Black Arms were a race of alien marauders that had attacked Sonic's world long ago. Despite superior bio-technology and numbers, they were stopped when Shadow the Hedgehog defeated their leader and central hive-mind, Black Doom, and blew up their traveling homeworld, the Black Comet.

A New Black Comet has arrived, bearing more Black Arms. Where did they come from? How did they survive Black Doom's defeat? Nobody knows, and Shadow isn't stopping to ask. He leads Team Dark and G.U.N.'s Spider Troupe on a mission to blow up the New Black Comet and stop the mysterious aliens.

Shadow and his team MUST repel these evil invaders, or the world and all its people are doomed...

WHO'S WHO

SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG
THE ULTIMATE LIFEFORM

ROUGE THE BAT
SUPER SPY

E-123 OMEGA
ROGUE BADNIK

BLACK ARMS
EVIL ALIENS

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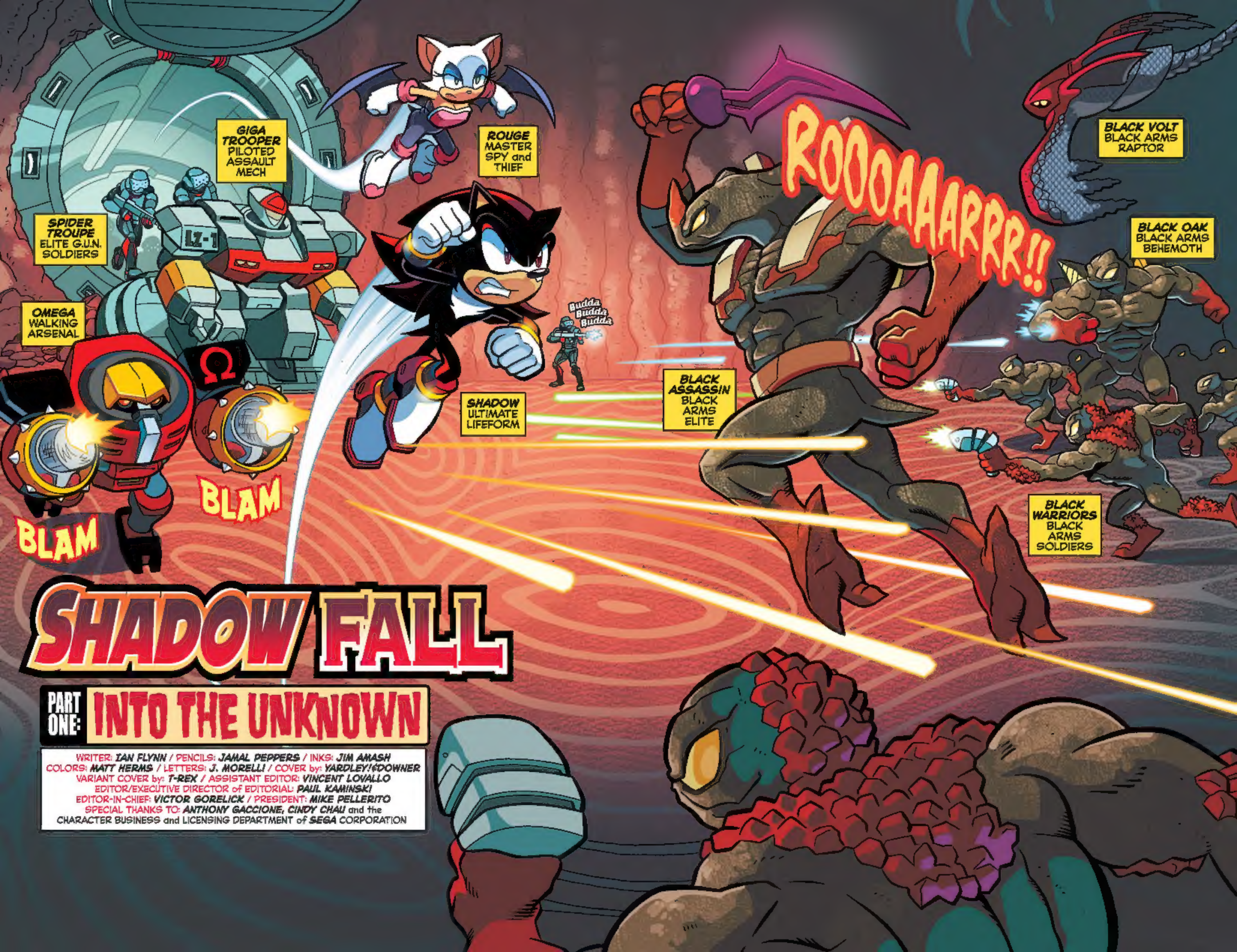
"LOCK 'N' LOAD, SPIDER TROUPE. WE GO HOT IN FIVE."
WE'VE MASKED OUR APPROACH, BUT IF THOSE BUG-EYED FREAKS HAVE ANY WINDOWS ON THAT THING, THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING.
DO NOT ACCEPT A WARM WELCOME. THE MINUTE WE DOCK, YOU ARE ALL CLEARED TO FIRE AT WILL.
DOCK! DOCK! DOCK!
"THESE ALIEN SCUMBAGS HAVE CROSSED THE GALAXY TO RUIN OUR LIVES. LET'S GO GIVE 'EM A PROPER 'HELLO'!"



SHADOW FALL

PART ONE: INTO THE UNKNOWN

WRITER: IAN FLYNN / PENCILS: JAMAL PEPPERS / INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: J. MORELLI / COVER by: YARDLEY!&DOWNER
VARIANT COVER by: T-REX / ASSISTANT EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO
EDITOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of EDITORIAL: PAUL KAMINSKI
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THOK
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM BLAM
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM
Budda Budda Budda
BLAM
KRAK
ROOOARR!!

ROOOAAARRR!!
SHUNK
BATTA-BATTA BATTA-BATTA-BATTA
THUD
THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM! GET THE WOUNDED TO THE SHUTTLE AND LET'S SET UP A PERIMETER, PEOPLE!

THAT WENT WELL.

IT WAS TOO EASY.

I DESIRE MORE ALIENS TO SHOOT.

OH BROTHER. DON'T WORRY, BOYS, I'M SURE THINGS WILL GET ***MUCH*** WORSE. THEN YOU TWO CAN BE HAPPY BEING MISERABLE.

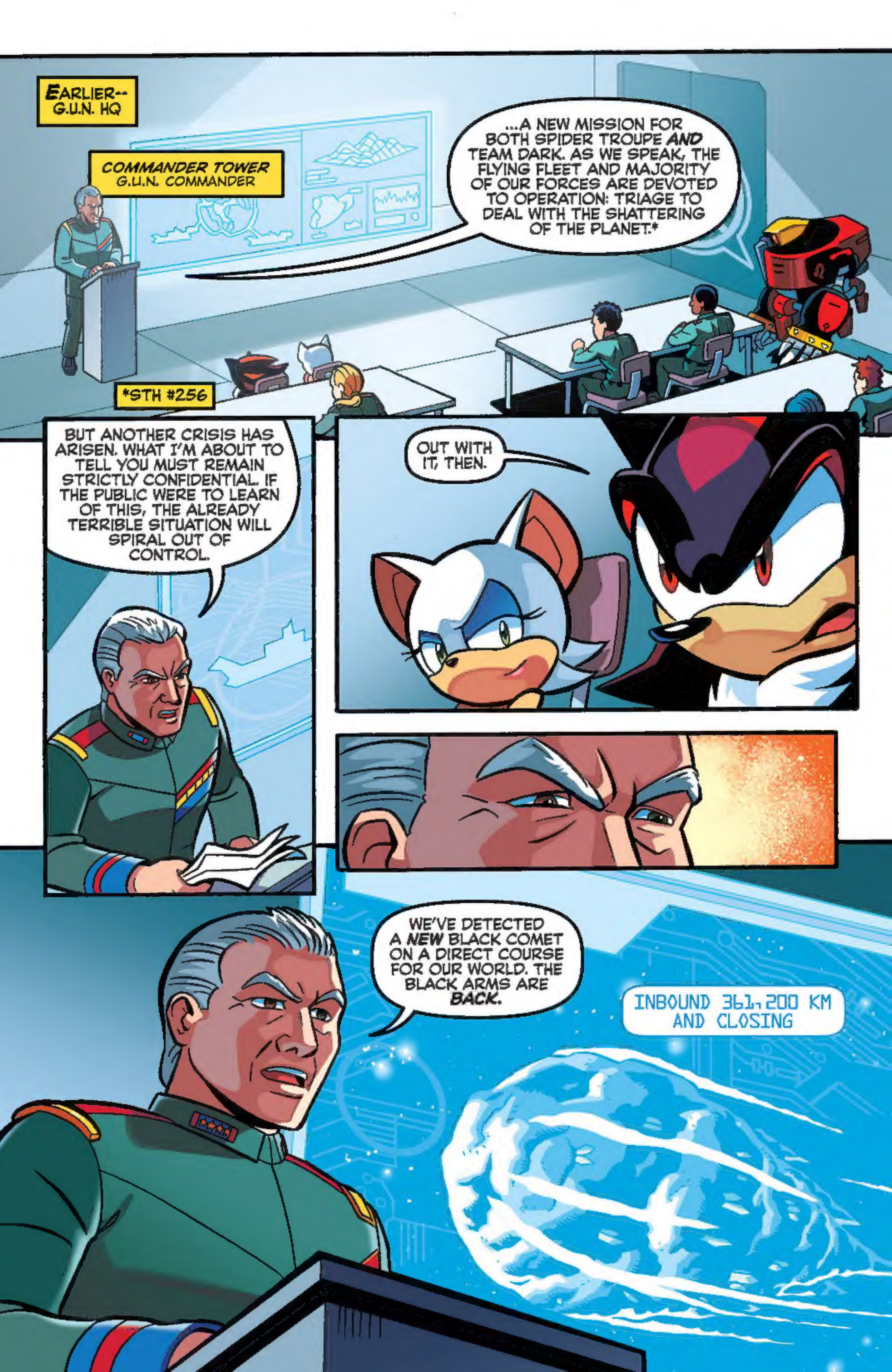
JOKE ALL YOU WANT. THEY LET US BOARD AND SENT ONLY A TOKEN RESISTANCE. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT.

WE'RE HERE TO ***MAKE*** THINGS ***RIGHT.*** HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HEDGEHOG. I HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT WE GOT YOU.

PRESENTING THE MJOLNIR-CLASS TACTICAL NUCLEAR WARHEAD. ONCE ARMED AND ANCHORED, THIS BABY IS UNMOVABLE AND WILL TURN ANYTHING IN A FIVE MILE RADIUS INTO A FOND MEMORY.

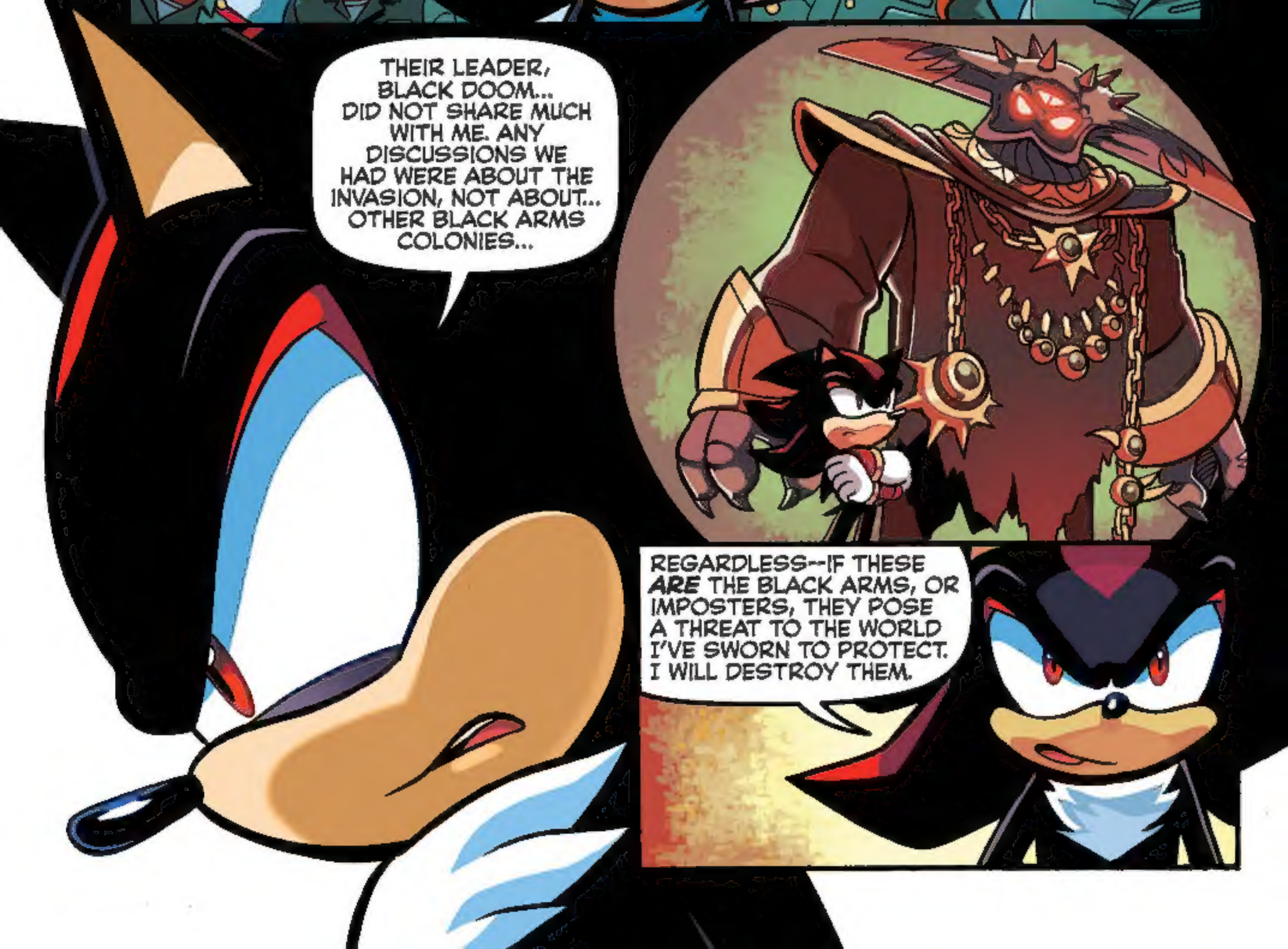
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

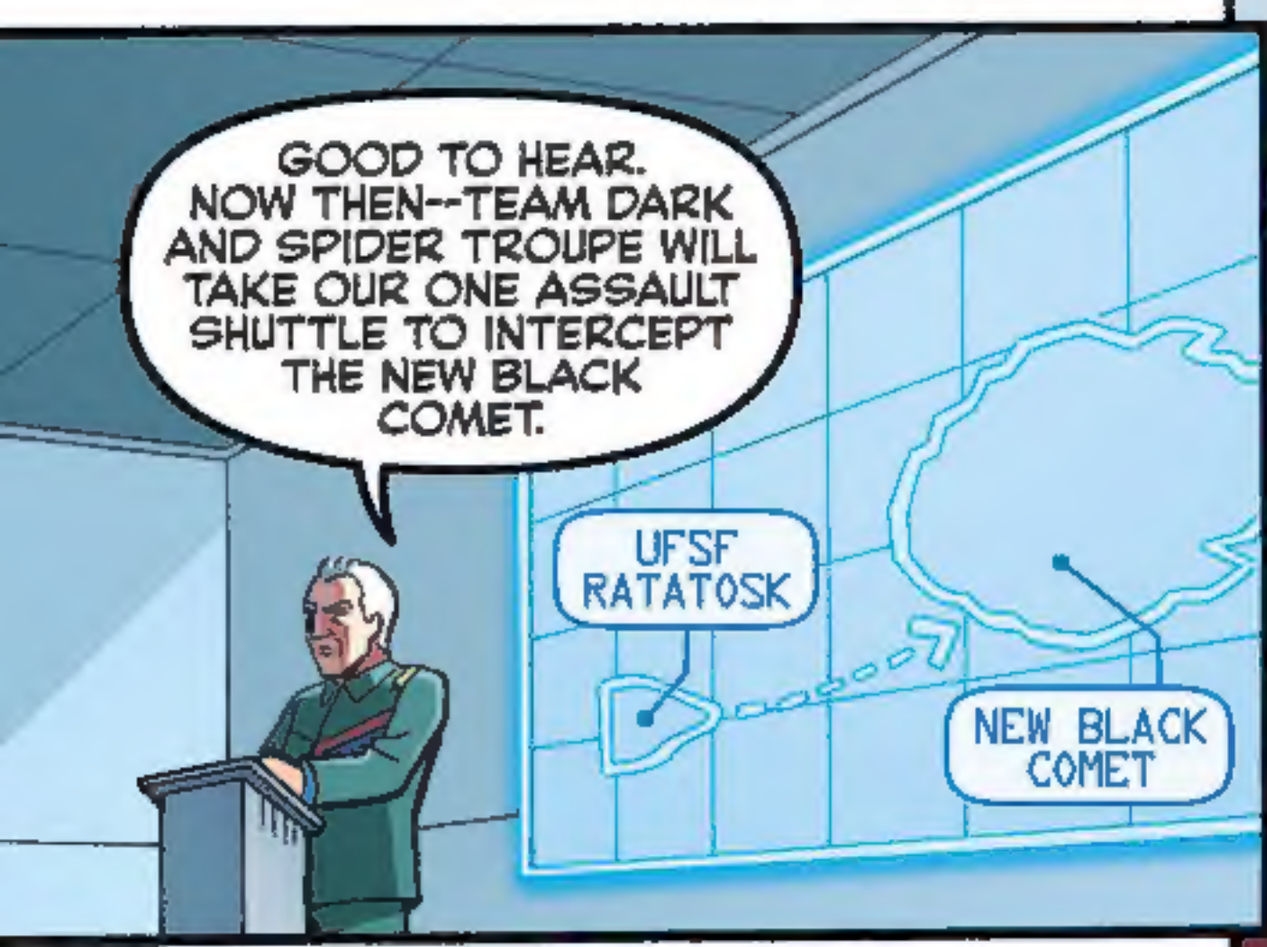
THE BLACK ARMS WILL BE WIPED OUT COMPLETELY. THIS... THIS IS OUR MISSION.

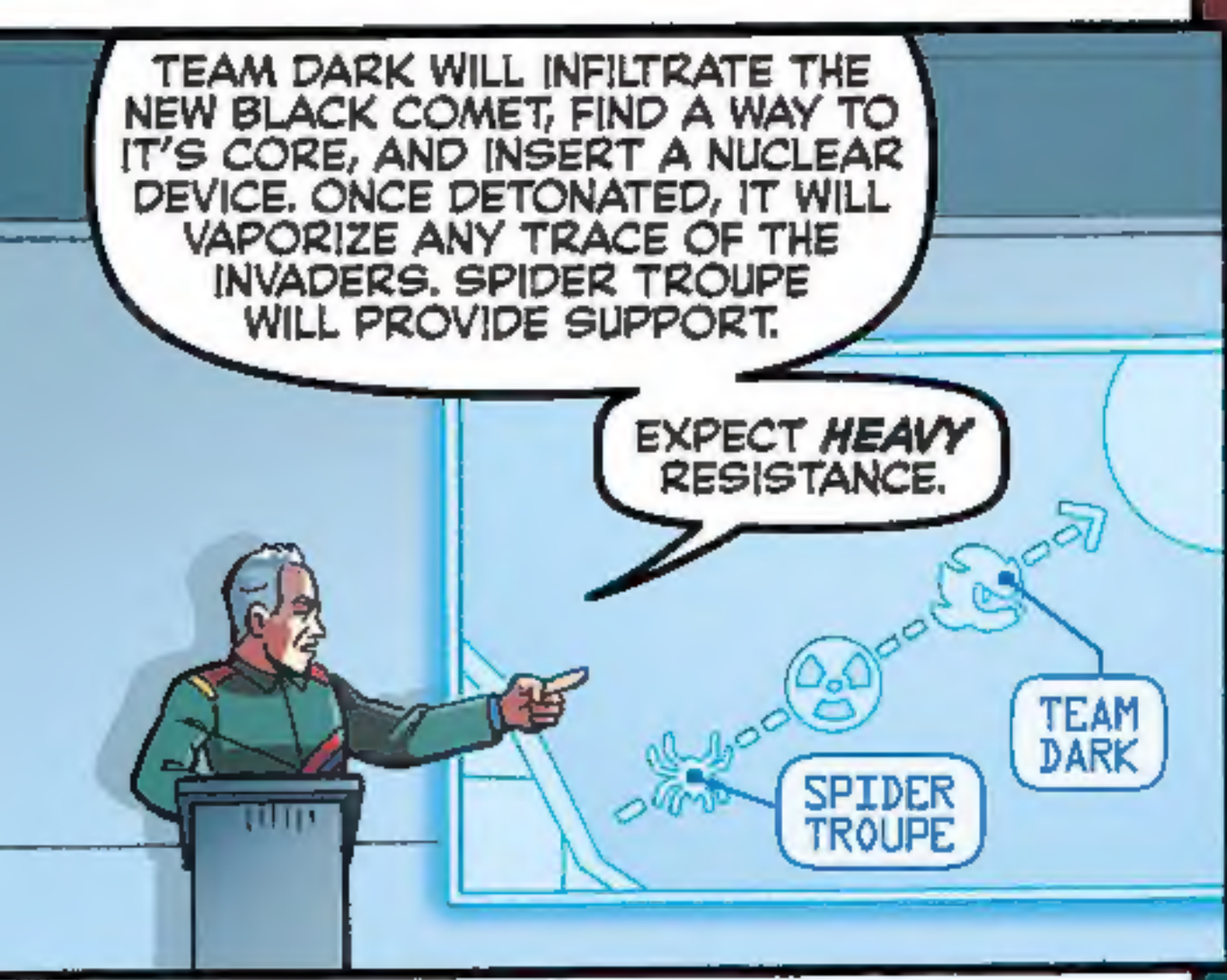

EARLIER--
G.U.N. HQ
COMMANDER TOWER
G.U.N. COMMANDER
...A NEW MISSION FOR BOTH SPIDER TROUPE AND TEAM DARK. AS WE SPEAK, THE FLYING FLEET AND MAJORITY OF OUR FORCES ARE DEVOTED TO OPERATION: TRIAGE TO DEAL WITH THE SHATTERING OF THE PLANET.*
*STH #256
BUT ANOTHER CRISIS HAS ARISEN. WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU MUST REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. IF THE PUBLIC WERE TO LEARN OF THIS, THE ALREADY TERRIBLE SITUATION WILL SPIRAL OUT OF CONTROL.
OUT WITH IT, THEN.
WE'VE DETECTED A NEW BLACK COMET ON A DIRECT COURSE FOR OUR WORLD. THE BLACK ARMS ARE BACK.
INBOUND 361,200 KM AND CLOSING

IMPOSSIBLE.
ARE WE SURE? THE ECLIPSE CANNON BLEW UP THE BLACK COMET, AND SHADOW ALREADY DESTROYED THE CORE TO THEIR HIVE MIND.*
*THE BLACK COMET'S FIRST ATTACK WAS IN *SHADOW THE HEDGEHOG* THE VIDEO GAME.

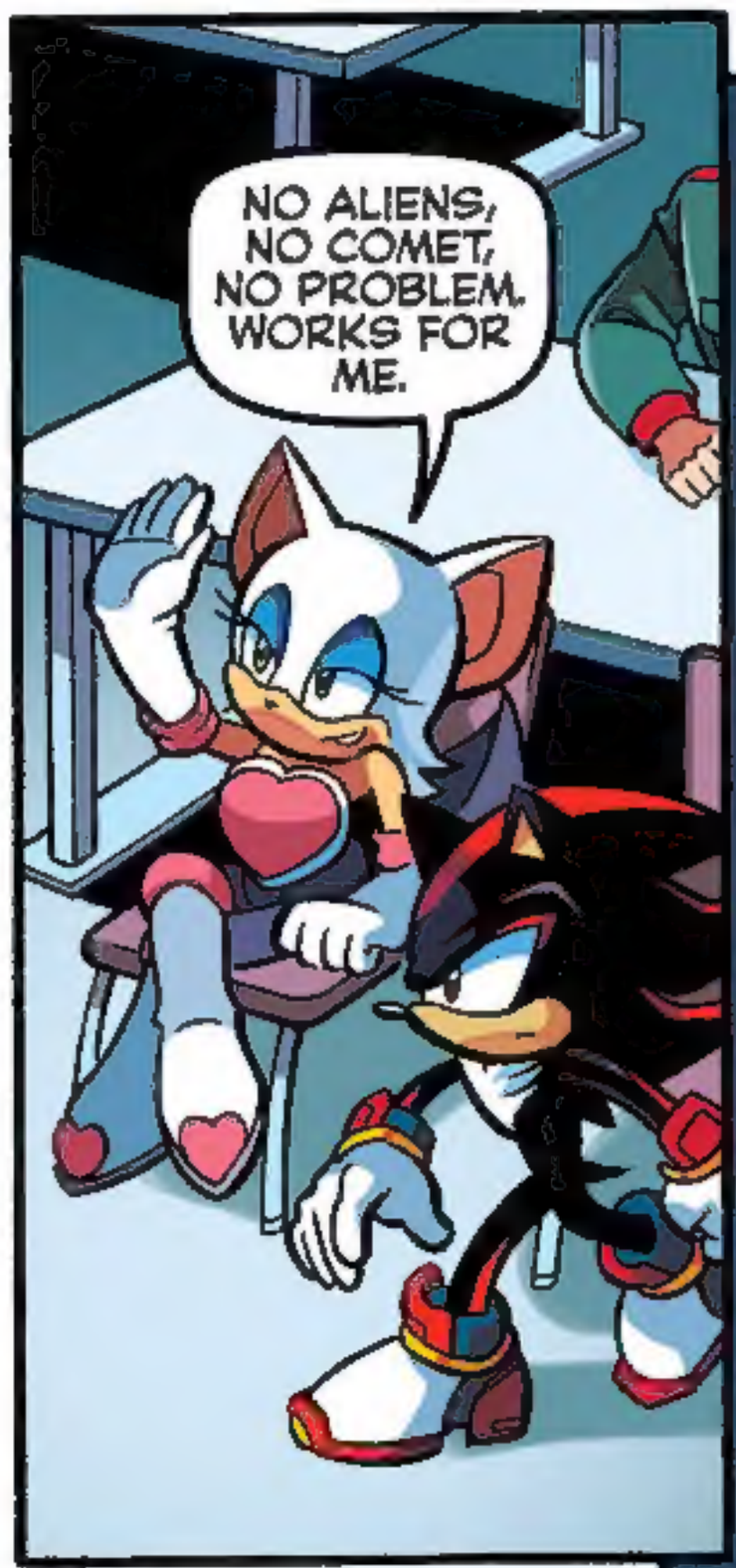
ALL OF THE *ARK'S* SENSORY DATA CONFIRMS IT.
SHADOW.
YOU SPENT THE MOST TIME WITHIN THEIR RANKS. YOU'RE PART ALIEN YOURSELF. CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH ANY INSIGHT?

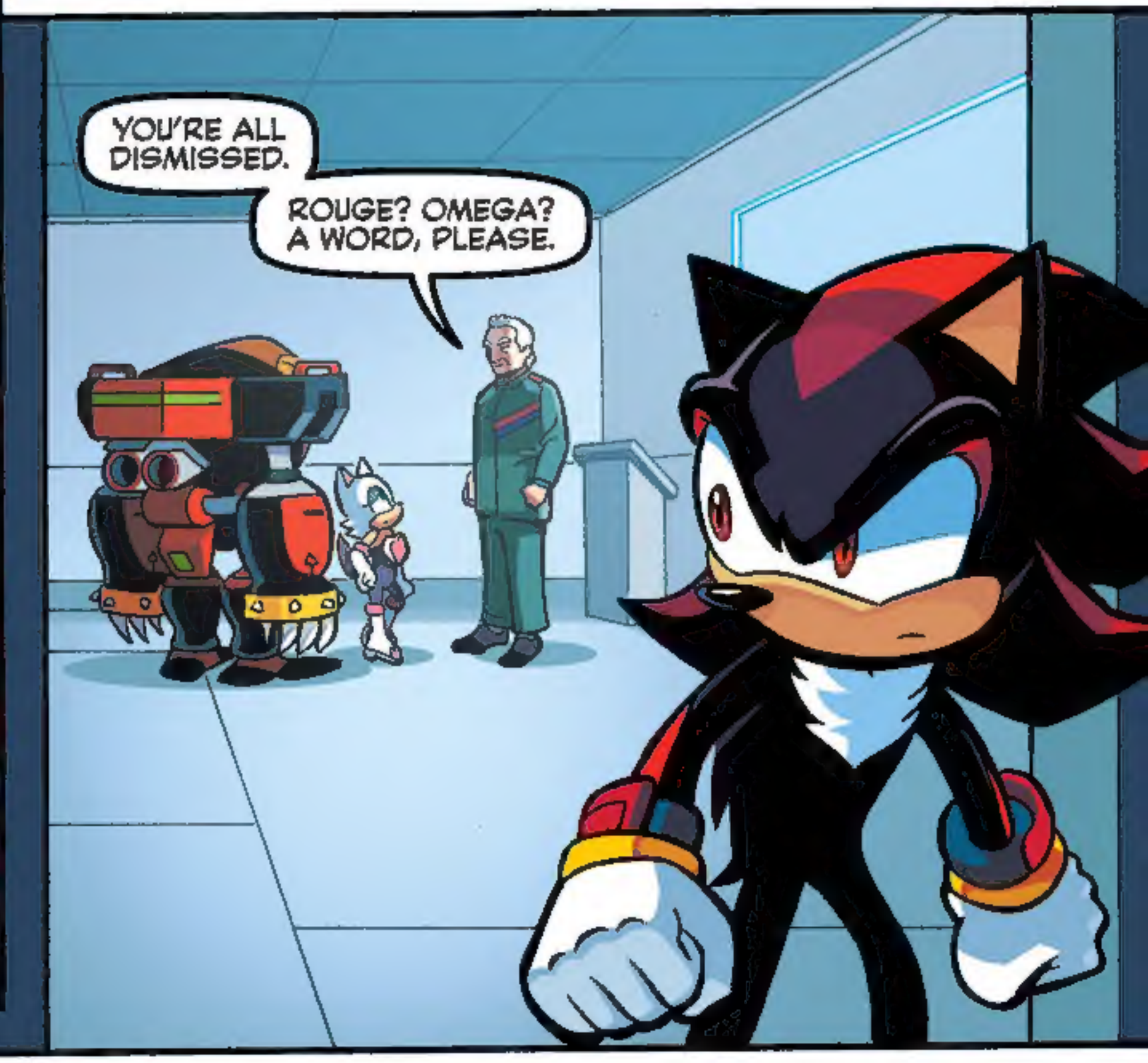

THEIR LEADER, BLACK DOOM... DID NOT SHARE MUCH WITH ME. ANY DISCUSSIONS WE HAD WERE ABOUT THE INVASION, NOT ABOUT... OTHER BLACK ARMS COLONIES...
REGARDLESS--IF THESE *ARE* THE BLACK ARMS, OR IMPOSTERS, THEY POSE A THREAT TO THE WORLD I'VE SWORN TO PROTECT. I WILL DESTROY THEM.


GOOD TO HEAR. NOW THEN--TEAM DARK AND SPIDER TROUPE WILL TAKE OUR ONE ASSAULT SHUTTLE TO INTERCEPT THE NEW BLACK COMET.
UFSF RATATOSK
NEW BLACK COMET


TEAM DARK WILL INFILTRATE THE NEW BLACK COMET, FIND A WAY TO IT'S CORE, AND INSERT A NUCLEAR DEVICE. ONCE DETONATED, IT WILL VAPORIZE ANY TRACE OF THE INVADERS. SPIDER TROUPE WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT.
EXPECT *HEAVY* RESISTANCE.
TEAM DARK
SPIDER TROUPE

SIR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, ISN'T THAT A BIT OVERKILL?
IT'S THE SIMPLEST OPTION. EVEN *IF* WE COULD ELIMINATE ALL THE ALIEN FORCES INSIDE--
I COULD DO IT.
--THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THE UNPILOTED COMET WOULDN'T HIT US. THE PLANET OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T NEED ANY MORE DAMAGE. WE'RE BLOWING IT UP TO REMOVE ALL POTENTIAL THREATS.
I COULD DO THAT AS WELL!


NO ALIENS, NO COMET, NO PROBLEM. WORKS FOR ME.


YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED.
ROUGE? OMEGA? A WORD, PLEASE.

NOW

PERIMETER SECURE. ALL HOSTILES CONFIRMED NEUTRALIZED.

GOOD WORK, COOPER. LET'S GET READY FOR THE NEXT PUSH.

SO...THESE CERTAINLY *SEEM* LIKE THE SAME TYPES OF ALIENS WE FOUGHT BEFORE. STILL THINK THEY'RE IMPOSTERS?

I...DON'T KNOW. I SENSED THAT THE BLACK ARMS WERE ONE RACE, ALL IN THE SAME PLACE.

"SENSED?"

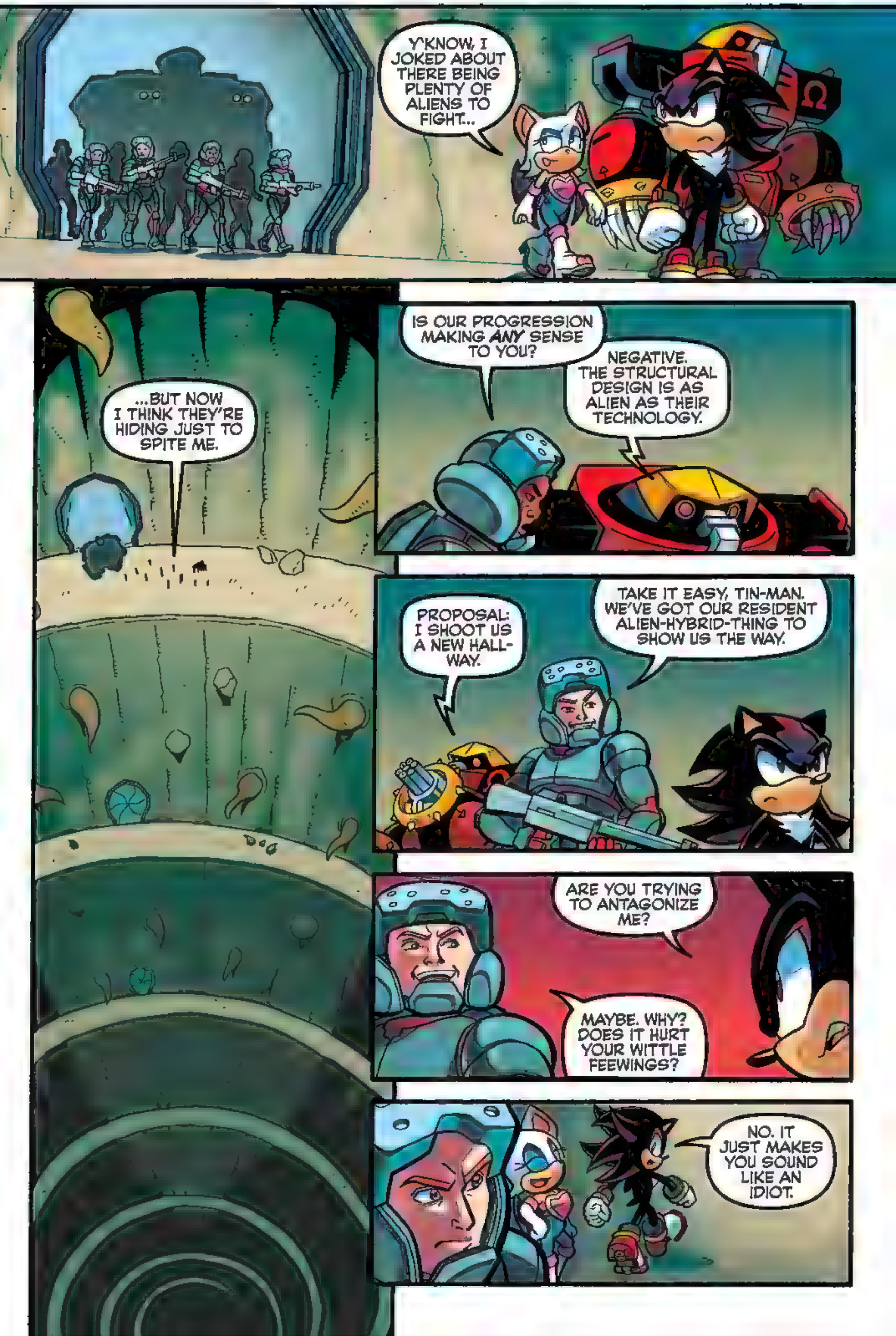
I SHARE A... LOOSE CONNECTION WITH THEIR HIVE-MIND. THEIR BLOOD IS IN MY VEINS. I CAN... ***KNOW*** SOME OF WHAT THEY KNOW. FEEL THEM MOVING THROUGH THE COMET...

WELL...DON'T GO ***TOO*** DEEP INTO THEIR THOUGHTS. WE DON'T WANT YOU THINKING LIKE YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.

Hmph. WE'RE WASTING TIME. LET'S GO.

SPIDER TROUPE WILL TRANSPORT THE NUKE WHILE TOWER'S PET FREAKS TAKE THE POINT.
SOUND GOOD TO YOU?
TRY NOT TO GET KILLED.
AND HERE THEY COME HERE HE COMES.
BLACK DOOM'S GREATEST CREATION AND EXECUTIONER.
I KNEW THIS MEETING WOULD BE INEVITABLE. I JUST ASSUMED IT WOULD BE MORE ON MY TERMS.

PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST. THE HUMANS WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED NOURISHMENT FOR MY SMALL ARMY. IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG SINCE WE HAD A PROPER MEAL...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE WE DELAYED OURSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF *YOUR* EXPERIMENT.
THE DARK ARMS WILL MAKE US *STRONG*, MY MASTER. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, YOUR CHILDREN *NEED* STRENGTH.
TRUE ENOUGH. AND YOU...YOU WILL GET TO FULFILL YOUR PURPOSE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. SHADOW WILL PAY FOR HIS TREASON.
OF COURSE— *IF* HE CANNOT BE SHOWN THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE SO FEW NOW. I'D HATE TO LOSE A... BROTHER.


Y'KNOW, I JOKED ABOUT THERE BEING PLENTY OF ALIENS TO FIGHT...
...BUT NOW I THINK THEY'RE HIDING JUST TO SPITE ME.
IS OUR PROGRESSION MAKING ANY SENSE TO YOU?
NEGATIVE. THE STRUCTURAL DESIGN IS AS ALIEN AS THEIR TECHNOLOGY.
PROPOSAL: I SHOOT US A NEW HALL-WAY.
TAKE IT EASY, TIN-MAN. WE'VE GOT OUR RESIDENT ALIEN-HYBRID-THING TO SHOW US THE WAY.
ARE YOU TRYING TO ANTAGONIZE ME?
MAYBE. WHY? DOES IT HURT YOUR WITTLE FEEWINGS?
NO. IT JUST MAKES YOU SOUND LIKE AN IDIOT.

?
...SHADOW?
ARE YOU OKAY?
FINE. I'M...FINE. I WAS TRYING TO TAP INTO THE HIVE-MIND FOR... DIRECTION.
...OMEGA. I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING.
WHAT?
WHEN YOU TURNED ON DR. EGGMAN AND BECAME A FORCE FOR GOOD, DID YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY...WARRING AGAINST OTHER ROBOTS? YOUR OWN KIND?
NONE WHATSOEVER. I WAS BUILT TO DESTROY. DR. EGGMAN KEEPS BUILDING HIS INFERIOR ROBOTS, I KEEP DESTROYING THEM. I AM CONTENT.
WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR QUERY?
...NO REASON. FORGET I ASKED.

DEAD END. COULD THE BLACK ARMS BE MESSING WITH YOU? SENDING YOU FALSE INFORMATION?

Hmmm...

I REMEMBER SEEING THAT GOOP-EY STUFF ALL OVER THE PLACE WHEN THE ALIENS HIT PRISON ISLAND. WHAT *IS* THAT GUNK?

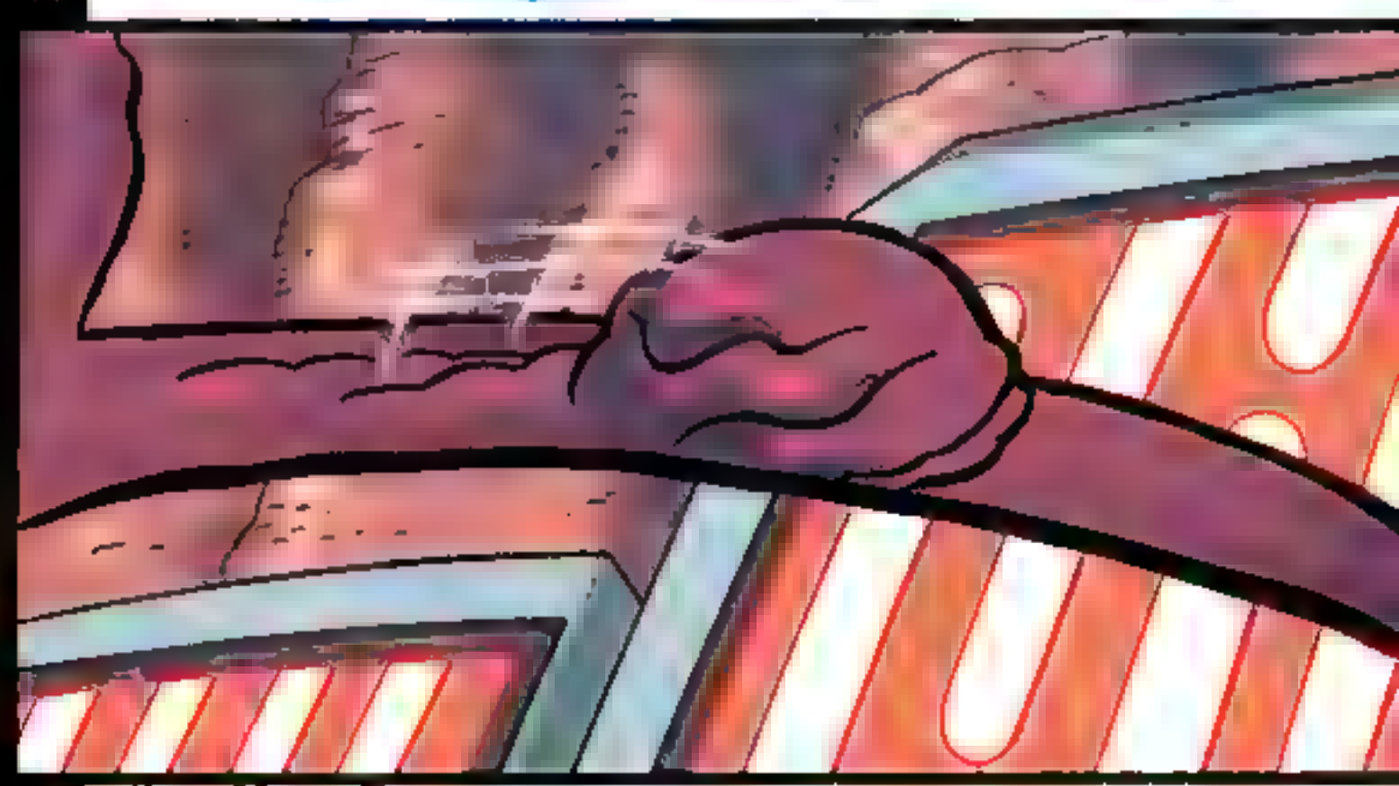
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO TRANSLATE IT... *"CONDUIT GEL?"* IT'S AN OOZING FUNGUS THE BLACK ARMS USE FOR QUICK TRANSPORT.

IS IT DIFFICULT TO USE?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU'RE NOT A BLACK ARM--OR PART OF ONE. I'LL TAKE THIS AND SCOUT AHEAD.

YEAH, Uh, NO? WE SHOULD STICK TOGETHER. WE'RE OUTNUMBERED IN HOSTILE TERRITORY, WE *NEED* YOU TO GUIDE US.

I'M ONLY SCOUTING. I'LL BE FINE.



SPLORCH
!
...BLAST IT, ROUGE. STOP BEING RIGHT ALL THE TIME.

SCHWOOP
SAFETIES OFF! WE'VE GOT INCOMING!
NEGATIVE--NO ALIEN LIFE SIGNS DETECTED. HOWEVER, I'M READING TRACE ELEMENTS OF AN AEROSOL NEUROTOXIN. TEN PARTS PER MILLION ...THIRTY PARTS... RISING...
THEY'RE GOING TO GAS US!
WORSE! THEY DID THIS TO US ON THE FIRST BLACK COMET!
WHAT'S WORSE THAN BEING GASSED?!
THE GAS ISN'T TO KILL US! IT'S GOING TO PARALYZE US SO THEY CAN EAT US!

MEANWHILE...

YOUR AMBUSH IS POINT-LESS...

...WHEN I HAVE CHAOS CONTROL!

...WHAT?

SLAM

HOLD ON! HOLD ON! WE DON'T WANT TO KILL HIM IF WE DON'T HAVE TO!
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

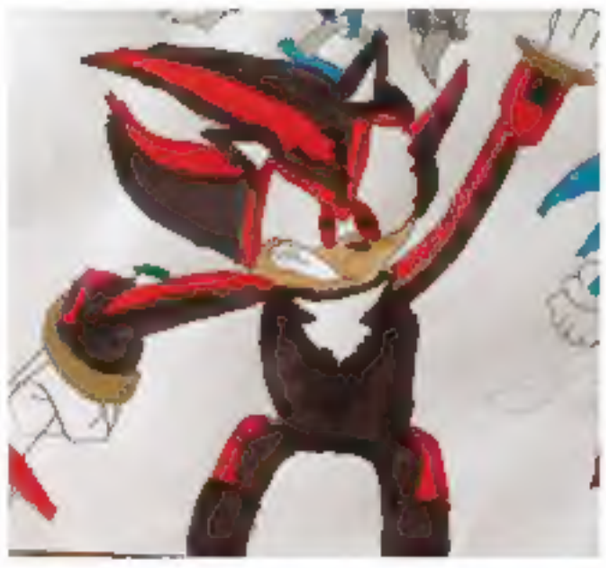
ME? I AM YOU, IN A WAY.
A LIVING WEAPON, BUILT FOR A SINGULAR PURPOSE. THE BLACK ARM BIOLOGY--PERFECTED. I AM THE SHADOW THAT BLOCKS OUT THE LAST LIGHT OF HOPE.
I AM ECLIPSE THE DARKLING.
WHO IS ECLIPSE? WHAT IS HIS TIE TO SHADOW? HOW WILL ROUGE, OMEGA AND G.U.N. ESCAPE THEIR TRAP? IS THE WORLD DOOMED TO ALIEN INVASION?
DON'T MISS ALL THE ANSWERS AND THE ACTION NEXT TIME!
UNTIL THEN, CHECK OUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINE, SONIC SUPER DIGEST and THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!

MY SONIC UNIVERSE™ FAN ART

Liz H. from Texas

Shakira B. from Tennessee

Tristan D. from New York



Beth L. sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

HEY, KIDS!

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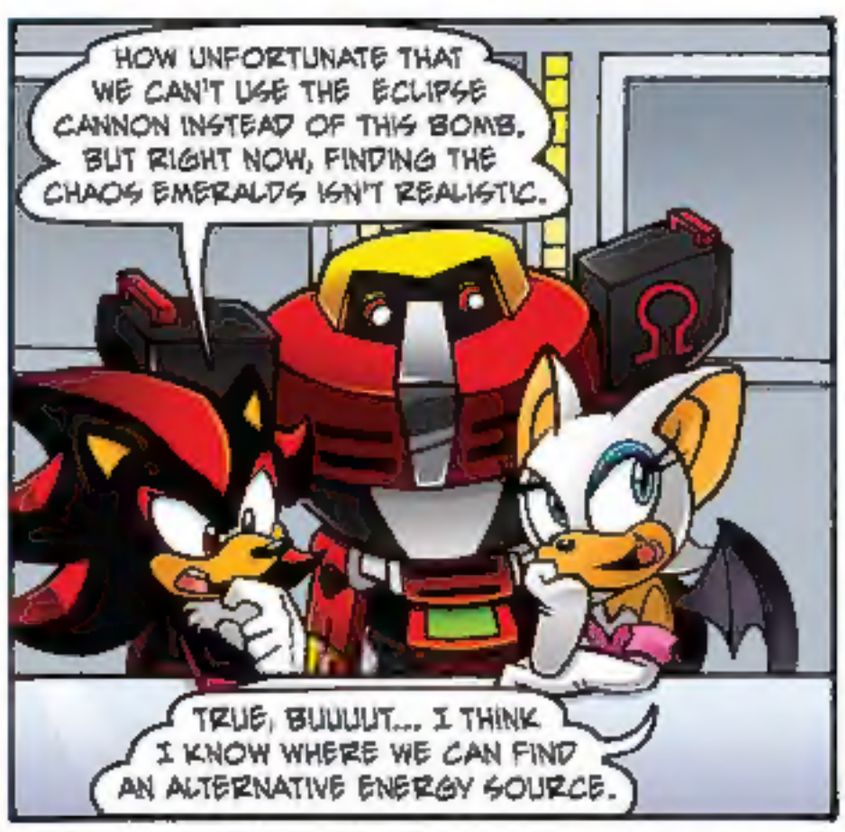
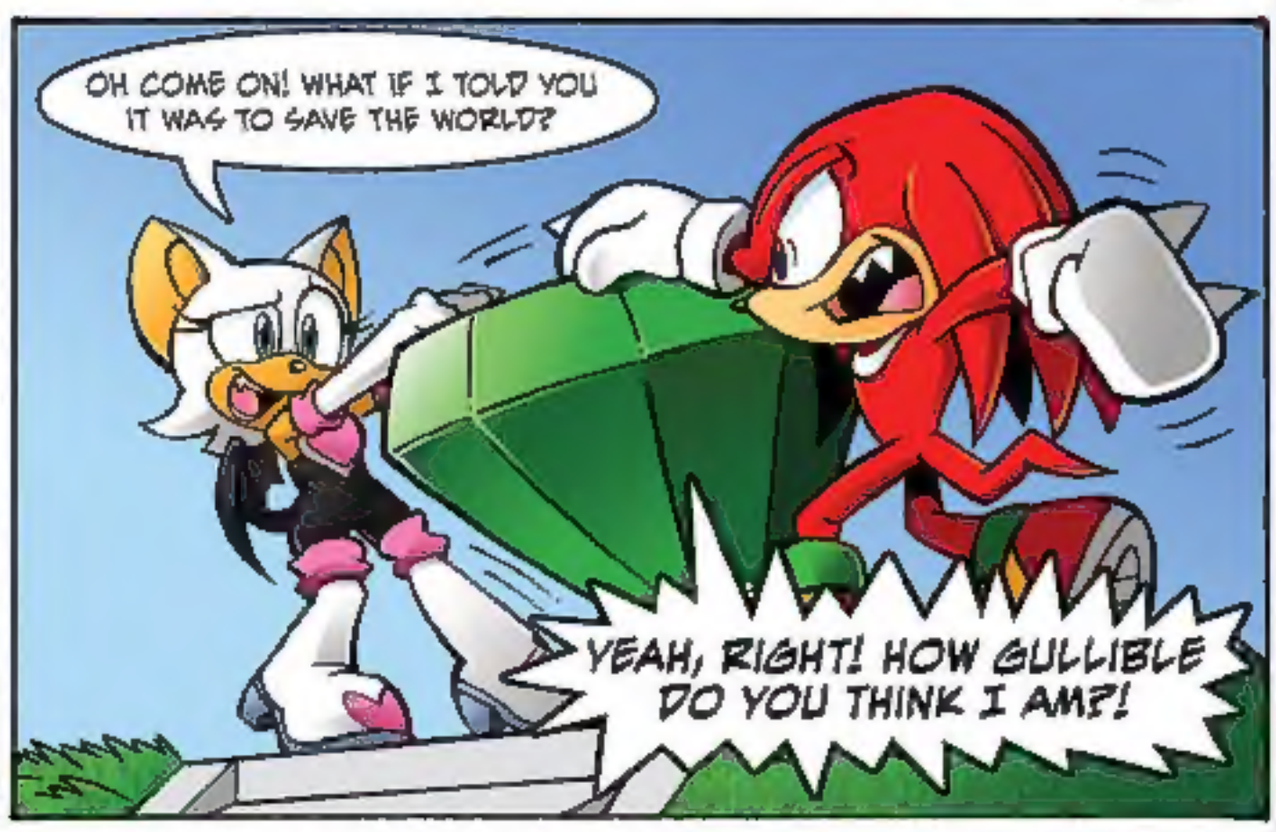
OFF PANEL

SHADOW FALL





SCRIPT/COLORS: ALEAH BAKER PENCILS: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ INKS: RICK BRYANT

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Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hey there sonic team it is Austin again! Remember Shadow's #1.1 fan?

I know you!

Well being a Shadow fan, I've recently heard of there being a new arc about Shadow and the Black Arms! Even though the comet passes every 50 years I'm glad that we don't have to wait that long hehe.

I hope this issue cleared up any confusion you might have had! This is an all-new comet with all-new threats!

Is it possible that Shadow could be convinced by these aliens and turn into a villain? That would be so awesome because I would love to see Shadow as a major threat against the Freedom Fighters!

Get a load of the preview page at the end of this comic and speculate for yourself! I think you'll be pleasantly surprised!

I am looking forward to 'Shadow Fall' and I can't wait to see how awesome it will be! Thank you for your time and please keep up the good work!

Austin. J sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks, Austin! I don't have a SHADOW of a doubt that you'll enjoy this issue!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
I just love the Chaotix and my favorite member is Vector. Can you tell Vector that he is the coolest?

Of course! I'm sure the coolest croc around would love to hear you're kind words as much as he loves good pay!

Is there a book with the Modern Chaotix?

Sonic Universe Vol. 3 has plenty of Chaotix action for ya! Check out the Sonic Universe coupon in this book and order your copy today! Plugplugplugplugplug!

I am planning to get all of the Chaotix Quest and since I am a fan of Vector I love to draw him. I even sent you guys some of my artwork of him!

Thanks!
Elijah sent to Sonic@ArchieComics.com

Thanks for the letter, Elijah! We love to hear that you enjoy the Chaotix so much because they're coming back really soon! Keep the fan art coming, we can't get enough!

Dear 'My Sonic Universe,'
Hi there!

Hello!

I just wanted to say what a great job you guys have been doing, Sonic Universe has become my all-time favorite comic ever!

Many thanks to you, that's way past awesome to know!

That's all I wanted to say! Also, could I be Rouge's # 1 fan?!

Billy C.
from Illinois

Thanks, Bill! You can be Rouge's #1 fan, sure! Unless of course any other Rouge fans out there would beg to differ?

See ya'll next month for part two of SHADOW FALL!

COLLECTOR COVER SPOTLIGHT

SONIC UNIVERSE #59

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T. Rex

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